THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : The material will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

RBI approval for appointments in banks

155. SHRI MD. SALIM : Will the Minister of FINANCE *be* pleased to state :

(a) whether appointment of high officials in public sector and foreign banks are cleared by the RBI; and

(b) if so, whether tome of the racent postings got the approval of the RBI specially in foreign banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) The appointments of whole-time directors on the boards of the public sector banks and the Chief Executive Officers of the foreign banks operating in India are made in consultation with Reserve Bank of India or previous approval of the Reserve Bank of India in accordance with the provisions contained in the relevant statutes.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that all such recent appointments, including those in the foreign banks operating in India, have been made in consultation with/ with previous approval of the Reserve Bank of India.

Impact of Gold Bond Scheme on smuggling

156. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD :
SHRI ISHWAR CHANDRA GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gold Bond Scheme opened on the. 15th March, this year will have a negative impact on curbing smuggling;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Times of India of the 8th April, 1993 in this respect; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction to the fears expressed therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) Since the Scheme was introduced only from 15-3-93, it is too early to give any comments on the negative impact of Gold Bond Scheme on curbing smuggling activity.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. Government's attention ha» been drawn to the news report in question. The fears expressed in the report: are a matter of concerned to the Government.

The increased in the gold prices in Indian market is as shown below :

Rs. 4080 per 10 gms. on 15-3-93 to Rs. 4090 on 30-3-93 and Rs. 4320/- on 21-4-93.

This increase in the price does not appear to indicate as increase in smuggling as it can be due to demand being more than availability of gold.

The liberalised import policy of gold has certainly a dampening effect on the smuggling of gold.

The anti-smuggling agencies remain vigilant against smuggling of contraband including gold.

Merger of associate banks of State Bank group

157. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision on the resetting of the Associate Banks of State Bank Group by merging all Associate Banks;